

men they died in the service of the United Nations. Mr. Speaker, I cannot think of a more outrageous statement made by any American official in years.

The Clinton administration now has struck again. This time they are considering prosecuting a young American soldier, Specialist Michael New, who refused to put on the blue uniform of the United Nations, and refused to serve in Macedonia under a general from Finland.

Specialist New understands his soldier's oath. He pledged to wear the American uniform and to lay down his life for our country and our Constitution. Nowhere did he swear allegiance to the United Nations Charter or promise to obey the orders of his superiors in the United Nations high command.

Mr. Speaker, I hope they understand that down at the White House before they tell another American family that its husband, father, son, or brother died in the service of the United Nations. I do not believe any American soldier should serve under U.N. command.

#### TOP 10 REASONS WHY REPUBLICANS REFUSE TO HOLD HEARINGS ON THEIR MEDICARE CUTS

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, from the home office in Bronx, NY, the top ten reasons why Republicans refuse to hold hearings on their Medicare cuts:

No. 10. Republicans figure seniors can't hear, so why bother holding hearings?

No. 9. It might interfere with the O.J. press coverage.

No. 8. It's easier to arrest seniors than to listen to them. (At least they can get health care in jail, not under the Republican plan.)

No. 7. The more you know about their plan the sicker you'll get.

No. 6. Republicans would rather give tax cuts to the wealthy than health care to Grandma.

No. 5. They want to keep seniors in the rocking chair, not in the witness chair.

No. 4. Republicans saw a product in the National Enquirer that makes Medicare obsolete.

No. 3. Why hold hearings when a tax break for the rich can buy diamond earrings?

No. 2. Mugging Medicare recipients is easier if you do it in the dark.

No. 1. Ah, who needs a second opinion. There's one side to every story.

#### NOW WE KNOW WHO IS LYING ABOUT MEDICARE REFORM

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Republicans fi-

nally conceded that their so-called Medicare reform plan would extend the Medicare trust fund only to the year 2006 instead of 2010, as they have been claiming. In fact, they claimed on this floor yesterday early in the morning that their plan would extend the Medicare trust fund until the year 2010. Now the Republican majority realizes they only need \$90 billion to stabilize the trust fund until the year 2006 and not \$270 billion to stabilize to the exact same year.

It is very interesting to note that the Democrats have an alternative plan that would assure the solvency to 2006 by only cutting the necessary \$90 billion. What we need is to be asking our friends on the other side, Why are you cutting three times more than you need to stabilize the fund, and you are only stabilizing it to 2006? Be honest about it, it is going to tax cuts. At this point I suppose we should ask the Republican majority, Why are you increasing premiums, deductibles, copayments, and making extreme reductions in payments to hospitals to provide a budget-busting tax cut?

There is a country western song in Texas that is popular now. It is called "I Let Her Lie." The people know now who is the one that is doing the lying.

#### AMERICANS WANT THE WASTE CUT OUT OF MEDICARE

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, as we press ahead with the most important business before this Congress, strengthening Medicare, the American people need to understand just how much waste can be cut out of this program for senior citizens. Last Thursday I was home in my district for a series of town meetings with seniors to discuss the Medicare plan.

At one of these meetings I had a constituent, Mrs. Hill of Ocala, stand to her feet to offer one example of the waste in the system. This is it, right here in my hand. It seems Medicare part B reimbursed beneficiaries no matter how small the cost, in this case 1 cent. What is Mrs. Hill going to do with the check for 1 cent? The time she spent opening the envelope was worth 1 cent. The postage alone to send this check is worth 32 cents, or 32 times its value. I bet the paper and ink used to print this check cost more than 1 cent.

Mr. Speaker, conservative estimates put the amount of waste, fraud, and abuse in Medicare at \$20 billion. With stories like Mrs. Hill's it is little surprise. Our seniors demand and deserve that we root out waste, fraud, and abuse for Medicare. They are right, and we should.

#### ARRESTS ON CAPITOL HILL MAKE A SAD DAY FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I was astonished yesterday, as a member of the Committee on Commerce, to watch while a group of about 15 or 20 senior citizens came into the room, asked to speak, were denied the opportunity to speak or say anything about Medicare which is going to affect them so greatly, and then were told that they were going to be arrested, were actually arrested, handcuffed, put into a paddy wagon, and taken down to the Capitol Police to be booked or whatever.

I know the charges were eventually dropped, but it was a very sad day to know there was really no opportunity for these seniors and for America's seniors in general to be heard on an issue so important as Medicare. Then I watched as the Republican leadership on the committee proceeded to mark up a Medicare bill that essentially destroyed Medicare as we know it. What that bill will do is to force most seniors into HMO's or managed care. It will make those who would like to continue to be able to choose their hospital, their doctor, in a traditional fee-for-service program more and more be squeezed out of that program where they have no choice. It is a sad day for America.

#### REPUBLICANS WILL PRESERVE AND PROTECT MEDICARE

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about a credibility gap and a short history lesson. Many remember last spring, right here on the floor of the House, they talked about nutrition programs, and how the Republicans were going to slash nutrition programs and case children to starve.

I was in the Dodge Edison Elementary School this Monday, and Dr. Larry Reynolds is doing a very fine job of running that institution. None of the children were starving, not one was reported. In fact, ask yourselves, have you heard of any children all across this Nation in public schools starving? The answer is no. That is the credibility problem.

Those who were telling us that there were going to be starving children were wrong, absolutely wrong. Now we hear things like "The Republican plan is going to kill Medicare. There are sweetheart deals, disastrous cuts. Savings are going to pay for tax cuts." The credibility gap rises again. We are going to preserve and protect Medicare for our parents and for our grandparents. We have a specific plan. It is realistic. It is in plain English. It is up front.

Parents will have the right to choose what kind of health care. They will